

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-29 Cancelled.

1           30. (Previously Added) A method for anastomosing two ends of tissue, said method  
2 comprising the steps of:

3           a) placing a biodegradable shrink film around each end of tissue; and

4           b) increasing the temperature of the shrink film to its glass transition temperature,

5 wherein the biodegradable shrink film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid

6 having at least 75% lactic acid by weight.

1           31. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein step b) is achieved by

2 pouring warm saline around the biodegradable shrink film.

1           32. (Previously Added) The method of claim 31 wherein the warm saline is

2 approximately 42°C.

1           33. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 further comprising:

2           setting a fixation device around the two ends of tissue.

1           34. (Previously Added) The method of claim 30 wherein there exists a space in

2 between the two ends of tissue.

1           35. (Previously Added) The method of claim 34 further comprising:

2           prior to step a), implanting a biodegradable matrix seeded with growth factors

3 into the space between the two ends of tissue.

1           36. (Previously Added) A method for preventing tissue from collapsing into a void,  
2 the method comprising:  
3           placing a biodegradable shrink film over the void, wherein the biodegradable  
4 shrink film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid having at least 75% lactic  
5 acid by weight.

1           37. (Currently Added) A method for anastomosing two ends of tissue, said method  
2 comprising the steps of:  
3           a) placing a biodegradable shrink film around each end of tissue; and  
4           b) increasing the temperature of the shrink film to its glass transition temperature,  
5 wherein the biodegradable shrink film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid  
6 having at least 75% lactic acid by weight.

1           38. (Currently Added) The method of claim 37 wherein step b) is achieved by pouring  
2 warm saline around the biodegradable shrink film.

1           39. (Currently Added) The method of claim 38 wherein the warm saline is  
2 approximately 42°C.

1           40. (Currently Added) The method of claim 37 further comprising:  
2 setting a fixation device around the two ends of tissue.

1           41. (Currently Added) The method of claim 37 wherein there exists a space in  
2 between the two ends of tissue.

1           42. (Currently Added) The method of claim 41 further comprising:

2        prior to step a), implanting a biodegradable matrix seeded with growth factors into the  
3 space between the two ends of tissue.

1        43. (Currently Added) A method for preventing tissue from collapsing into a void, the  
2 method comprising:  
3        placing a biodegradable shrink film over the void, wherein the biodegradable shrink  
4 film comprises a mixture of lactic acid and polyglycolic acid having at least 75% lactic acid by  
5 weight.